Price of Anti-Cancer drug

2054. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Emergency Medical Relief has been granted to M/s. Novartis for its anti-cancer product GLIVEC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. NATCO Pharma is already marketing the same product at 1/10th the price of Novartis;

(c) whether it is also a fact that M/s. NATCO have challenged the grant of Emergency Medical relief; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps Government propose to maintain the price as the product is meant for cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Population growth rate

2055. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala and Tamil Nadu have successfully brought down population growth rate;

(b) if so, the measure taken by these States; and

(c) the new thrust proposed for population control?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Norms for financial assistance to all the States for implementation of various schemes under National Family Welfare Programme are the same, however, due to better political commitment, better education and better access to health infrastructure, including availability of contraception, has enabled State Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala to bring down population growth.

(c) A comprehensive package of services relating to mother and child health, and contraception are being provided under the RCH Programme. Efforts are being made to make Family Welfare Programme a people's programme through increased involvement of NGOs, Self Help Groups and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Intersectoral convergence for improving delivery of family welfare services at field levels is also being persued. An Empowered Action Group has been constituted to address the unmet needs of the demographically weaker states. A Jannani Suraksha Yojana is being launched in the country to address the issues of institutional delivery and promotion of sterilization. A National Commitment Campaign has been launched for generating greater political commitment for the Family Welfare Programme.

Two children norm

2056. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations on the Supreme Court's judgement upholding the two children norm as a pre-requisite condition for heading an elected institution like the panchayat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines or directions to all the State Governments for implementation of the Supreme Court judgement;

t (d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some Writ Petition (Civil) and appeal challenging the provisions of section 175(1)(q) and 177(1) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 (Act No. 11 of 1994) debarring persons who have more than two children from becoming or continuing as Sarpanch or a Panch of a Gram Panchayat or member of Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad, were dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 30th July, 03.